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## ANTHROPOLOGIC MISCELLANEA

**Franz Nikolaus Finck.**—In the recent death of Dr Franz Nikolaus Finck, Professor of General Linguistics at the University of Berlin, the science of language has lost its foremost scholar. Suddenly stricken down

by disease of the heart in the period of his most fruitful activity, Professor Finck lived to see his name and work ranked with the highest in the history of linguistics.



Franz Nikolaus Finck.

Professor Finck was born at Crefeld in 1867. He studied at the universities of Munich, Paris, and Marburg, receiving his doctor's degree at Marburg in 1896. He was docent in comparative philology at Marburg University from 1897 until 1901. His connection with Berlin University began in 1903; at that institution he was first docent and later Professor of General Linguistics. From 1907 he was also in charge of the department of Oceanic languages in the Oriental Seminary at Berlin.

Professor Finck's unusual gift as a linguist found its first expression, not in scientific, but in poetic form. In 1891, before he commenced his university studies and largely as an expression of his thoughts during five years of military service, a little volume of poems was published by him at his home city, Crefeld. The poems show decided talent and great command of language. Examine, for instance, "Die Blätter im Herbstwind," "Du,

mein einziger Gedanke," or "Herbstgedanke." In the same year appeared a second volume of verse entitled *Von der Riviera*, and in 1893 *Weltfremd—Weltfreund* was published, the latter showing that Finck was strongly under the influence of Nietzsche's philosophy. Although almost too reflective and philosophical these poems have found many admirers. The *Blätter f. lit. Unterhaltung* (1893, No. 37) says: "Darin erinnert er an die schönsten Erzeugnisse der philosophischen Dichtung Schillers"; *Görlitzer Anzeiger* (1892, No. 263) says: "Der Versbau ist elegant, der Inhalt tiefsinnig und gedankenreich"; *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* (1892, Oct. 31) remarks: "Der gewandte und elegante Versbau erscheint durchaus als das Werk eines phantasievollen Dichters, der tiefsinnige Inhalt dagegen lässt auch den gedankenreichen Philosophen leicht erkennen."

The university life seems to have directed Finck's talent from verse to the study of languages. No more poetry was published. But the talent did not wane, nor was it lost or wasted in the new field.

Tearing himself free from the restraints and artificialities of university life, he spent the year previous to his graduation living among the peasants of the Aran islands off the west coast of Ireland, where he studied and recorded the Gaelic language as still spoken there.

During the years of his Marburg docentship he obtained with his remarkable memory a smattering of the most diverse languages and became conversant with what has been done in the philosophy and psychology of language. During this period his two best-known essays were published: *Der deutsche Sprachbau als Ausdruck deutscher Weltanschauung*, 1899, and *Die Klassifikation der Sprachen*, 1901. These essays are full of new and original thoughts about language. Finck with his poet-mind gives us an insight into language which it will take science with its laborious methods generations to make permanent. According to these essays language is not a mere medium of communication; it lays fetters upon the human mind, and again, assists it in its soarings. Language study was to Finck, now a phase of philosophy, now a phase of ethnic psychology.

At times during this Marburg period Finck lived among the gypsies, learning their language and customs. At the close of this period his interests became as broad as the human race. He was a linguist with the interests of both philosopher and ethnologist.

In 1900 he decided to go to Armenia and the Caucasus, a region in which such linguistic diversity as probably once existed elsewhere in Europe still obtains. During the two years spent there Finck acquired a speaking knowledge of Armenian. His *Lehrbuch der neuostarmenischen Literatursprache*, 1902, has been pronounced a model short grammar, a treatment which a

brief grammar of any language may well imitate. Finck studied Armenian because it is the least known of the Indo-Germanic dialects. His attention spread from this language to the fifty-four almost unknown aboriginal dialects of the Caucasian Mountains. He became known to German scholars especially as a student of Caucasian.

His Caucasian studies established two important facts concerning those languages:

1. They confirmed Von Erckert's opinion that the fifty-four diverse languages are all genetically related. We may therefore speak of the Caucasian linguistic stock.

2. In a letter to the writer, penned only a few weeks before his death, Professor Finck states his opinion concerning the relationship of this stock to others—an opinion which will be of great interest to ethnologists and one which has, as far as I can learn, not been published. It is therefore quoted in full. "Was die Frage verwandtschaftlicher Beziehungen des Kaukasischen zu anderen Stämmen anbetrifft, so scheint mir eine solche zum Ural-Altaischen und Indogermanischen nicht gerade ausgeschlossen, aber auf jeden Fall nicht bewiesen zu sein und, was schlimmer ist, auch kaum beweisbar. Weit eher würde ich auf eine Entdeckung von Spuren der alten, eigentlich kaukasischen Kultur rechnen. Aber auch solche Entdeckungen dürften noch in einiger Ferne liegen; und mir scheint, für uns handelt es sich zunächst darum, mit den auf anderen langdurchforschten Gebieten wie dem indogermanischen erprobten Mitteln ähnliches wie dort zu erstreben. Schon heute darüber hinauszugehn, ist wohl kaum möglich."

Among Professor Finck's later works of general scope are: *Die Aufgabe und Gliederung der Sprachwissenschaft*, 1905; *Specielle Sprachengeographie*, 1907; *Die Sprachstämme des Erdkreises*, 1909; and *Die Haupttypen des Sprachbaues*, 1910. *Der Ursprung der Sprache* and the great *Armenische Grammatik* are soon to be published posthumously. Arrangements have been made by which the School of American Archaeology will obtain the Caucasian work of Professor Finck which has not been published.

Professor Finck is generally appreciated as a poet, philosopher, linguist, and ethnologist. I wish to say a few words about him as a man. As a teacher he gave his time freely to his students. His natural gifts, his enthusiasm, his blunt, fearless manner, his humor, his indefatigable industry, even his knowledge of his own power, were an inspiration to all that knew him. Great is the pity that he did not live longer and did not commit to writing more of the rare combinations which arose in his trained mind.

I add a complete list of Dr Finck's publications, which his sister, Frau Dr Gjandscheziani, has kindly compiled especially for this article in the *American Anthropologist*.

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JOHN P. HARRINGTON

**Ethnology at the Annual Meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society.**—The annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society January 9-11, was successful in point of quality of program and interest manifested. A part of the meetings were held in conjunction with the Nebraska Territorial Pioneers' Association. The historical papers read covered a wide range, among the speakers being Mr James Mooney

of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Edgar R. Harlan, curator of the Historical Department of Iowa, Dr Benjamin F. Shambaugh, President of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, and Mr Harold J. Cook.

Ethnology was given a conspicuous place on the program and the society was fortunate in having present Mr Mooney, who spoke on "My Life Among the Indian Tribes of the Plains," "The Indian Woman," and "Systematic Nebraska Ethnological Investigation." The first lecture was illustrated by many Indian pictures, and the talk on the Indian woman was so simple, practical, and new that it was received with enthusiasm. An interesting and rather unique feature of the ethnological part of the program was "Folk Songs of the Omaha Indians, Interpreted," by Professor Melvin R. Gilmore of Cotner University. Original records secured by Professor Gilmore were produced on the phonograph and the harmonized version given on the piano by Miss Edna Wright. Mr Robert F. Gilder spoke on "Nebraska as an Archeological Field."

A part of one session consisted of a meeting of school children and the the program was arranged especially for them. An illustrated talk, "Life on the Omaha Indian Reservation," was given by Professor Gilmore and two Nebraska history stories were told by Mrs Minnie P. Knotts, librarian for the society. Believing that the time to create a lasting interest in state history is during childhood, the society is doing everything possible to encourage the telling of history stories in the public schools and elsewhere.

The Nebraska State Historical Society is giving especial attention to ethnological study and investigation. The society is at present without a curator for its museum, but has several applications under consideration. Plenty of time is being taken in the selection in order that a man especially equipped for the particular field may be secured. An archeological reconnaissance is being planned for the next summer and those especially interested in this field will be invited to join the party.

C. S. PAINE.

### **The International School of American Archeology and Ethnology.—**

The following account of this important movement is taken from a recent number of Science:

"The International School of American Archeology and Ethnology was inaugurated in the City of Mexico on January 20. The founding patrons of the school are the government of the United States of Mexico, the government of Prussia, Columbia University and Harvard University. The University of Mexico has placed at the disposal of

the school rooms in which classes may be held, and will facilitate access to libraries, museums, institutes, and other scientific centers in which are pursued studies like those of the school, and will aid in the support of the school with an annual subsidy of \$6,000. Each patron will in turn appoint and pay a director of the school, and will also allot fellowships which will be sufficient to cover the expenses of board and lodging and transportation of a fellow. In accordance with the statutes the government of Prussia has appointed as director Professor Eduard Seler, Director of the Section of Anthropology and Archeology in the Royal Museum at Berlin, who has already made extensive researches in Mexico. He will hold office for one year, and will be aided by Professor Franz Boas, of Columbia, during his presence in Mexico as Professor of Anthropology at the National University. Two appointments to fellowships have been made, Dr Werner von Hürschmann by Prussia, and Miss Isabel Ranives Castañeda by Columbia University.

"All the explorations and studies of the school are to be subject to the laws of the country in which the work is undertaken, and all objects found in investigations or explorations will become the property of the national museum of the country in which the studies are carried out. In case similar specimens of the same kind of object are discovered duplicates will be given to the patrons who supply the necessary funds for the exploration. Most of the explorations will be conducted in the rich fields of Mexico, and the government of that country has already given the necessary authorization for the investigations which will soon be begun and are certain to produce interesting and valuable results."

**The Nebraska Society of Ethnology and Folklore.**—The "Nebraska Society of Ethnology and Folklore" was organized at Lincoln, last November. The following officers were elected: President, Hutton Webster, Professor of Social Anthropology in the State University; Vice-President, R. F. Gilder, of the *Omaha World-Herald*; Secretary-treasurer, A. E. Sheldon.

The field of the society's activity will be limited to an investigation of the Indian culture within the borders of the state and of the considerable material relating to European folklore found in the German, Bohemian, and Scandinavian population. At least one annual meeting will be held.

HUTTON WEBSTER.

At the Summer School of the University of Washington, Mr John P. Harrington of the School of American Archaeology gave two courses in Anthropology. One of these courses was entitled "The Indians of the Northwest"



and in it especial attention was given to the Indians of the State of Washington. The other course was a general introduction to the science of language. Quoting from the university catalog: "This course presents the chief facts about the science of language, facts which every student of any language ought to know. It embodies the material contained in the most recent German lecture courses and books on die Sprachwissenschaft." During the session of the Summer School and during three weeks after the Summer School closed, Mr Harrington studied the language and ethnology of the Duwamish and Suquamish tribes of the vicinity of Seattle. One of the features of this latter work of popular interest is the settling of the much disputed question as to whether Mt Ranier is rightly called Mt Tacoma. It was discovered that the ancient Duwamish name for Mt Ranier is *Takóbed*. There therefore appears to be no just reason for not following the precedent already established by the people of the city of Tacoma and calling this famous peak Mt Tacoma.

ACCORDING to information printed in the *Geographical Journal*, the Austrian African traveler, Herr Otto Artbauer, set out in October with the intention of making his way into the Tibesti region between Fezzan and Wadai—the portion of Africa which best deserves the epithet "dark" in our own day. He is accompanied by an Austrian artillery officer, First Lieutenant Emil Kraft von Helmhacker. The leader is an Arabic scholar and is also master of a number of African dialects, besides possessing ethnographical and geological qualifications. His companion will undertake the cartographical work and meteorological observations. The new expedition is well equipped, and provided on the one hand with presents likely to be held in esteem in that region, and on the other with serviceable weapons. After completing their proposed examinations of Tibesti; the travelers hope to cross Wadai by a route leading well east of Lake Chad, though should the state of affairs in that country make this impossible, they will take the easier way towards the Kamerun.

THE DUKE OF LOUBAT, well known as a generous patron of archeological research in America and in Europe, was the recipient of many congratulations and remembrances on the occasion of his eightieth birthday, January 21. In December last the Duke received the Leibnitz Gold Medal in acknowledgment of his services to archeological research. His most notable services to American archeology are the foundation of professorships in American archeology in Columbia University and in the universities of Paris and Berlin; and the foundation of international

prizes for research relating to pre-Columbian America. Recently, in the cause of humanity, he established in the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres at Paris an annuity of three thousand francs to be distributed by the Academy for the temporary relief of scientists brought to a standstill in their work by illness or lack of resource, and for the relief of families left in distress by the death of investigators while carrying on their work.

THE following is among the "University and Educational Intelligence" in *Nature*, Feb. 9, 1911:

"The report of the committee for anthropology [at the University of Oxford] for the year 1910, just presented to Convocation, contains a record of continuous and healthy development of the study in Oxford. The salary of the curator of the Pitt-Rivers Museum has been raised from 200l. to 500l. per annum, and a readership has been founded in social anthropology, to which the secretary to the committee, Mr R. R. Marett, Fellow of Exeter College, has been appointed. A large number of lectures have been delivered in the course of the year under the general heads of physical anthropology, psychology, geographical distribution, prehistoric archaeology, technology, social anthropology, and philology, besides special lectures for Sudan probationers, and addresses on the art of prehistoric man in France, by M. Emile Cartailhac."

A MEETING of the Anthropological Society of Washington was held December 20, 1910, at which Mr Paul Radin of the Bureau of American Ethnology gave an account of the "Winnebago Winter Feast." At the January meeting, held on the 17th of that month, Dr A. A. Goldenweiser of Columbia University addressed the society on "The Totemic Complex," and Dr Truman Michelson of the Bureau of American Ethnology read a paper on "The Medicine Arrows of the Cheyenne." On February 21 Dr Daniel Folkmar occupied the evening with "Some Questions arising in the first Census of European Races in the United States."

BEGINNING with Jan. 1, 1911, Mr C. M. Barbeau has been appointed Assistant in Anthropology on the Geological Survey of Canada. Mr Barbeau has pursued anthropological studies at Oxford University for the three years 1907-10 as Rhodes Scholar for the Province of Quebec. He has prepared, in connection with his work at Oxford, an extended study on "Some Aspects of the Totemism of the Northwest Coast of America." At present Dr Sapir and Mr Barbeau have under way a "Selected Bibliography of Canadian Physical Anthropology, Archeology, and Ethnology."

AT a joint meeting of the American Ethnological Society of New York and the Section of Anthropology and Psychology of the New York Academy of Sciences, January 30, 1911, a paper was read by Dr Pliny E. Goddard on the "Distribution and Relationship of the Apache." February 27 Dr Robert H. Lowie presented a paper on "Women's Societies of the Missouri Village Tribes."

FROM the *Museum Journal* of the University of Pennsylvania it is learned that before his Canadian appointment was accepted Dr Sapir had been engaged in preparing a study of Paiute mythology and a grammar of the Paiute language. In spite of the necessarily exacting nature of his new engagements it is hoped that a volume of Paiute mythology will be ready in about a year.

FROM Russian journals comes the announcement of very important archeological discoveries in and near the city of Kiev on the part of Professor Chvojka of the University of Kiev. One of the results of his work is reported to be the definite identification of the sites in this region, referred to by Herodotus and other ancient Greek writers, as early Slavic Russian towns.

AMONG the recent gifts to the American Museum of Natural History are the Lender's collection of costumes of the Plains Indians, presented by Mr J. Pierpont Morgan and a valuable collection of Navajo blankets, presented by Mrs Russell Sage.

DR CARL LUMHOLTZ has returned from a sojourn of fourteen months in the country of the Papago Indians of northwestern Sonora and southern Arizona, where he was engaged in ethnological, archeological, and geographical investigations.

DR HUTTON WEBSTER, Professor of Social Anthropology in the University of Nebraska, has been invited to read a paper on totemism before Section H of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

PROFESSOR ROLAND B. DIXON of Harvard University, assisted by Mr W. H. Mechling of the University of Pennsylvania, is engaged in preparing the Indian volume for the United States census of 1910.

DR GUSTAV RETZIUS, formerly professor of anatomy at Stockholm and noted also for his anthropological investigations has been appointed a foreign knight of the Prussian order pour le mérite.

SIR FRANCIS GALTON, eminent for his contributions to geography, meteorology, biology, anthropology, and psychology, died on January 18, at the age of eighty-eight years.

A MEMORIAL in marble to the late Sir John Evans, the anthropologist, has been placed in the parish church of Abbot's Langley, Herts, where he lived for sixty years.

THE Società Italiana d'Antropologia, Etnologia e Psicologia of Florence, has elected Dr Aleš Hrdlička, of the U. S. National Museum, a corresponding member.

WORD has been received of the death in California of Rev. J. W. Cleveland well known for his contributions to the study of the Dakota language.

ON November 7, 1910, Professor F. W. Putnam of Harvard University was elected a Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

THE death is recorded of Dr Alexander Schenk, Docent for Anthropology at the University of Lausanne.